

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ARA-10

EA-10 NEA-10 ACDA-07 EB-08 NRC-05 OES-07 FEAE-00

ERDA-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /139 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 9619

FROM USDEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, PORG, SF, US

SUBJECT: LAGOS CONFERENCE: THE NUCLEAR QUESTION

SUMMARY: ON SECOND DAY OF ANTI-APARTHEID CONFERENCE A NUMBER OF
SPEAKERS SEIZED ON REPORTS OF SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT

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TO BERATE WESTERN POWERS AND NATO FOR CONTRIBUTING TO PRETORIA'S
WEAPONS CAPACITY. MOST VITRIOLIC, AND LEAST ACCURATE, AMONG THESE
WAS FORMER COMMISSIONER FOR NAMIBIA SEAN MCBRIDE. ADDITIONAL
MENTION OW WESTERN AID TO SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR PROGRESS WAS MADE
CANON COLLINS (UK), NICOLAS GUILLEN (CUBA), AND ANC LEADER
OLIVER TAMBO. BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER SIMONET, NOTING HE WAS
NOT AUTHORIZED TO DO SO, RESPONDED ON BEHALF OF NATO POWERS.

END SUMMARY.

1. IN CONTRAST TO FIRST DAY OF CONFERENCE SEVERAL SPEAKERS STRESSED NUCLEAR ISSUE ON AUGUST 23. WESTERN POWERS WERE CRITICIZED, IN SOME CASES BY NAME, FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE TO SOUTH AFRICA IN DEVELOPING ITS NUCLEAR CAPACITY. ISRAEL WAS MENTIONED ONLY ONCE, IN PASSING, BUT NEITHER ARAB STATES NOR USSR HAVE SPOKEN YET.

2. MOST HOSTILE, DETAILED AND INACCURATE STATEMENT WAS MADE BY FORMER COMMISSIONER FOR NAMIBIA SEAN MCBRIDE WHO OPENED HIS ADDRESS WITH ALLEGATION THAT SOUTH AFRICA HAS ALREADY TESTED AN ATOMIC BOMB. MCBRIDE CLAIMED SAG REQUIRED ITS NEWFOUND CAPACITY WITH AID FROM US, FRANCE AND WEST GERMANY AND CONFERENCE WOULD BE MEANINGLESS UNLESS IT UNDERLINES THE FORCES WHICH ENABLE SOUTH AFRICA TO DEVELOP BOMB AND BOLSTER APARTHEID. SAFARI REACTOR WAS PROVIDED BY US AND MODERNIZED BY FRENCH. WEST ALSO PROVIDED ENRICHED URANIUM. MCBRIDE SUGGESTED THAT NEITHER FRENCH, US, NOR WEST GERMAN PEOPLE WANT SOUTH AFRICA TO HAVE THE BOMB AND EXPRESSED DOUBTS THAT EITHER PRESIDENT CARTER OR AMBASSADOR YOUNG ARE INFORMED OF WESTERN NUCLEAR COOPERATION WITH SAG, WHICH MCBRIDE IMPLIED WAS RESULT OF SECRET MILITARY PLOTTING.

3. EXPANDING ON THIS POINT, MCBRIDE RENEWED OLD CHARGES OF EXTENSIVE NATO CONTACTS WITH SOUTH AFRICA UNBEKNOWNST TO GOVERNMENT.

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MENTS OF BELGIUM, NORWAY OR NETHERLANDS.

4. MCBRIDE THEN CALLED ON CONFERENCE TO INVITE UNGA TO REQUEST SECURITY COUNCIL AUTHORIZE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS TO INVESTIGATE:

- NUCLEAR QUESTION INCLUDING POTENTIAL SAG NUCLEAR CAPACITY, SOURCES OF SUPPLY FOR REACTORS, EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY.
- SOURCES OF MILITARY SUPPLY AND TECHNOLOGY BASED ON INVESTIGATIONS GERVASI TESTIMONY.
- NATO-SAG RELATIONSHIP.
- EXPLOITATION OF NAMIBIAN URANIUM BY UK COMPANIES.

5. SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF EC-9 BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER HENRI SIMONET ELECTED TO PREFACE HIS REMARKS WITH REBUTTAL OF MCBRIDE'S NATO COMMENTS. WHILE EMPHASIZING THAT HE HAD NO AUTHORIZATION TO SPEAK FOR THE NINE OR NATO, BELGIAN STATE THAT, BASED ON HIS OWN EXPERIENCE, HE FEELS NO NATO MEMBER HAS ANY INFORMATION RELATING TO MILITARY CONTACTS WITH SOUTH AFRICA BY ANY NATO MEMBER AS A MEMBER. THERE HAS, TO SIMONET'S KNOWLEDGE, BEEN NO CONTACT BETWEEN SAG AND ANY NATO GENERAL WITH VIEW TOWARD INCREASING MUTUAL CONTACTS. BELGIANS WANT NO AMBIGUITY ON THIS ISSUE AND WILL MAKE THOROUGH INVESTIGATION OF CHARGES

6. MOZAMBIQUE FOREIGN MINISTER CHISSANO COMMENTED BRIEFLY THAT "THE WEST" IS HELPING SOUTH AFRICA MAKE NUCLEAR WEAPONS. REMARK WAS OBSCURED BY STATEMENTS CONDEMNING WEST FOR GENERAL SUPPORT OF SAG AND REFUSAL TO SUPPORT MANDATORY ARMS EMBARGO OR TO RECOGNIZE LEGITIMACY OF THE ARMED STRUGGLE. PARENTHETICALLY, CHISSANO NOTED MOZAMBIQUE HAS SET UP A "SOLIDARITY BANK" WHERE PEASANTS AND WORKERS CONTRIBUTE ONE DAY'S SALARY PER MONTH TO SUPPORT LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AND RECONSTRUCT VILLAGES DESTROYED BY RHODESIANS.

7. NICOLAS GUILLEN OF CUBA SOUNDLY CONDEMNED WEST FOR GIVING NUCLEAR CAPABILITY TO SOUTH AFRICA AND DEMEANDED THAT PROGRESSIVE COUNTRIES "RISE IN PROTEST VOWING NOT TO LET HIROSHIMA HAPPEN
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AGAIN."

8. OLIVER TAMBO OF ANC/SA SINGLED OUT WEST GERMANY FOR SPECIAL CRITICISM, DRAWING ON PURPORTED FRG INTELLIGENCE DOCUMENTS AND OTHER STATEMENTS CONTAINED IN PAMPHLET ENTITLED "CONSPIRACY TO ARM APARTHEID CONTINUES: FRG-SA COLLABORATION," WHICH ANC CIRCULATED AT CONFERENCE. HE ALSO ALLEGED SA WILL SOON TEST ITS FIRST ATOMIC DEVICE, MADE POSSIBLE BY WESTERN ASSISTANCE IN DEFIANCE OF WORLD OPINION.

9. CANON COLLINS (UK CITIZEN) ECHOED MCBRIDE'S CLAIM THAT SOUTH AFRICA HAS ALREADY TESTED A NUCLEAR WEAPON, THEREBY INCREASING ITS POWER TO IMPOSE APARTHEID ON AFRICA. HE CONTRASTED NUCLEAR THREATS NOW POSED BY SOUTH AFRICA TO 1965 CONFERENCE WHICH HE HELPED ORGANIZE IN GHANA WHERE ALL BLACK AFRICAN PARTICIPANTS AGREED AFRICA SHOULD BE A NUCLEAR-FREE ZONE. COLLINS THEN CALLED FOR "SANCTIONS OF EVERY VARIETY" AGAINST PRETORIA.

10. JOSHUA NKOMA, CO-LEADER OF PATRIOTIC FRONT, MADE ONLY PASSING REFERENCE TO NUCLEAR QUESTION, NOTING THAT ANY COUNTRY HELPING SOUTH AFRICA MAKE NUCLEAR BOMBS IS ENEMY OF HUMANITY.
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TAGS: PARM, PORO, SF, US
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